A Thousand Splendid Suns Summary # 2

Jalil sets up the marriage with a guy named Rasheed. He is a middle class man who lives in Herat. At first Mariam does not mind being with Rasheed. But then she starts to see the true side of him. He wants to have lots of kids and if his food is not satisfactory then he will get very angry. Also Mariam is to not leave the house unless told and when she does she has to wear a Burka which coves her face. Rasheed explains that she is his wife and his property. Also that no one else is to see her face but him. The marriage starts out good and they are happy. Untill when Rasheed wants to have kids. Mariam has a few miscarriages and Jalil starts to get angry with her. Mariam tries her best around the house and also with her cooking. She cooks him full course meals every night and if it’s not hot then she is going to be in very big trouble. Rasheed allows her to go to market and she sees many women without Burka’s on. She is astonished to see this and wonders why so many women allow other men to see their face. She quickly gathers what she had come for and heads home. When she gets home she asks Rasheed about the other women and he explains that some men have no dignity and allow their wives to not wear head dresses. He tells her to not look at them as examples and to never do that. She understands but is still left with wonder as to how the other women live. She wonders if they have a better life than her. As time passes Rasheed gets more and more impatient with Mariam because she is still having many miscarriages. The tension rises and he becomes more and more angry with everything that she does around the house. He tells her that she doesn’t do her chores right and the cooking is not sufficient. He beats her many times for reasons that Mariam does not know of or are made up.